



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Robert D. Vance, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Commissioner Named for Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. – (Jan. 18, 2013) –** Public Protection Cabinet Secretary Robert D. Vance today named Frederick A. Higdon as the new commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). Higdon's appointment is effective March 15, 2013 and runs through Dec. 31, 2016. He replaces Tony Dehner who was recently appointed Distilled Spirits Administrator at ABC upon the expiration of his term as commissioner. By statute, members of the ABC board serve for four-year terms.

"Freddie's many years of experience in both the practice of law as well as in accounting will help ABC as the department begins to move into a new era with updated laws and regulations that have been recommended to the General Assembly by the Governor's Task Force," said Secretary Vance. "I am excited about what he will bring to ABC and the administration in the coming years."

Higdon is a partner in the law firm of Spragens & Higdon, PSC in Lebanon, Ky., where he has practiced since 1976. He was appointed a Special Justice to the Kentucky Supreme Court in August, 2008. He received his *juris doctor* from the University of Louisville in 1975 and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1976. He served as a senior tax specialist with the Louisville firm Peat, Marwick & Mitchell & Co., (now KPMG), and as an accountant for Coopers and Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers). He currently serves as Chairman of the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents and is active in a number of Lebanon and Marion County civic activities.

"I am greatly honored and humbled to accept Governor Beshear's appointment. I look forward to serving the people of Kentucky and the ABC Agency which is known for its professionalism and dedication, especially in its efforts to restrict youth access to alcohol and tobacco, and its enforcement of compliance with ABC laws and regulations," said Higdon.

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